

January 11, 2013

# Weekly Views

At a press conference in the Indiana Statehouse, Governor-elect Mike Pence announced the reappointment of Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. Pence remarked on Commissioner Lemmon's impressive record of accomplishment since taking office in 2011. Following the press conference, Commissioner Lemmon shared the announcement with IDOC staff, along with his encouragement to continue our efforts to "establish Indiana as one of the safest places to live, work and visit."

PEN Products and the Branchville Correctional Facility began a partnership with a polymer company to recover different types of plastics and paper. The operation is currently in a test mode.

Offenders are separating different types of plastics from car door panels, diaper manufacturing operations and retail outlets. This operation helps local manufacturers keep recyclables out of landfills and creates offender jobs.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) received four new ICAN puppies. Star, Tracker, Alli and Cosmo were the latest dogs to enter the successful program. The Indiana Canine Assistant Network Program (ICAN) began at the Correctional Industrial Facility on May 22, 2012. The program at CIF has expanded to 11 handlers and 11 dogs. The dogs are taught 50 commands over a two year period. Once the dogs learn all of the commands, they are ready to be turned over to a client as service animals. Melody, Aria, Minuet, Harmony, Maestro and Duet were sent to the Indiana Women's Prison for the next phase of their training. The service animals receive training from multiple handlers so that they will be accustomed to receiving commands from different people. This ensures that when they are placed with a client they will readily accept commands from them. Some of the clients the service dogs assist are those who are autistic, have mobility/balance issues, and who are diabetic. (see photo left of Cosmo and handler)



Offenders at Plainfield Correctional Facility received a visit from Coach Don Nava of The Totally Fit Life. Coach Nava was able to conduct a workshop with several offenders from PCF and teach them the values and importance of living the totally fit life. Coach Nava explained that the Totally Fit Life is NOT just about exercise or eating; it's about healthy relationships, spiritual growth, and living a purpose-filled life. The Totally Fit Life is built upon grace and not guilt, encouragement and not condemnation.

Reception-Diagnostic Center (RDC) Superintendent Jim Wynn is pleased to announce the recent promotion of Nikki Reed to Correctional Sergeant. Congratulations!

A student from Indiana University-Kokomo, Angie Smitherman, began an internship at the Pendleton Correctional Facility working in the Office of Administrative Assistant. She will be working one day a week in conjunction with her studies in a Criminal Justice Masters program.

The Terre Haute Union Hospital based Family Medical Center (FMC) has 200 much needed quilts, thanks to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) PLUS unit. Over 200 baby quilts will be put to good use by the FMC, which helps lower income women visiting the clinic for prenatal care. The quilts are part of a care package provided to the new moms. WVCF Corizon staffer Dr. Brad Huffey helped organize the quilt project after hearing about the need from FMC social workers. (see photo right of Pictured from left: Laura Dever, Nancy Haynes and Dr. Brad Huffey)

There was a Cupcake War at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Students in the In 2 Work and Culinary Arts programs baked and decorated cupcakes in the theme of "Dreaming of Spring." Aramark staff Mrs. Hess and Physical Plant Director Bob Flynn judged the cupcakes on taste and presentation. The winners were the In 2 Work students with their "Snowmen in the Barnyard" display.

The SL One Unit at the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) will graduate 22 offenders from their Reformatory Residential Re-Entry Program (RRRP). These select offenders have successfully completed the six month extensive curriculum. This is the unit's fourth RRRP class, totally 51 graduates in all. A new RRRP class of 17 will begin on Monday.



The Indiana Blood Center Bloodmobile was at the Plainfield Correctional Facility for two days, during which 26 PCF and RDC staff donate blood, and those who signed up to donate received a limited edition Chuck Pagano Colts football! The Indiana Blood Center is looking forward to coming back for two more days in April!

The staff at the Indiana State Prison held a blood drive. This provided staff with a good opportunity to start the year with giving to others. The American Red Cross came to the facility for the donations.

The RDC Activity Committee recently made a \$100 donation to the Riley Children's Foundation, where it will be matched by Circle K as part of the Holiday Match Challenge.